



International  
**Biometrics+Identity**  
Association

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November 6, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson and Ranking Member McCaskill:

On behalf of the International Biometrics + Identity Association, it is our great pleasure to write in support of the nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen to be the Secretary of Homeland Security. As a group committed to homeland security issues, we believe Ms. Nielsen is well-qualified to lead Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Ms. Nielsen is an internationally recognized homeland security expert, with extensive work in cybersecurity, emergency management, and combatting terrorism. In the face of increasingly sophisticated and constantly evolving threats, a cyber expert at the helm of DHS is an invaluable asset to our national security. She has experience in both the public and private sectors and is well equipped to continue building public-private partnerships to advance the missions of DHS.

Ms. Nielsen is also deeply familiar with the other missions of DHS. As then-Secretary Kelly's chief of staff, Ms. Nielsen played a major role in departmental planning. She built close relationships with senior DHS officials and rank and file employees alike, and has a wealth of operational knowledge. If confirmed, she will be the first Department employee to rise to the rank of Secretary – a true testament to her distinguished record.

Ms. Nielsen is uniquely qualified to lead DHS at such a critical time. We respectfully urge the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the full Senate move swiftly to confirm Ms. Nielsen as the sixth Secretary of Homeland Security.

About IBIA - IBIA advances the adoption and responsible use of technology-based identification solutions to enhance identity security and privacy and to facilitate convenience and productivity for government, business and consumers. For more information, please visit our website: [ibia.org](http://ibia.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tovah LaDier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Tovah LaDier  
Managing Director